

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-44 are pending in this application. Claims 1-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,671,412 to Christiano in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,664 to Coley et al. (herein "Coley"). That rejection is traversed by the present response as discussed next.

Applicants respectfully submit the claims as written positively recite features neither taught nor suggested by the applied art, and that the outstanding rejection is not properly considering all the claimed features relative to the teachings in the applied art.

Fundamentally, the outstanding rejection appears to not be fully considering that the claims are directed to different elements of a three element system such as shown in Figure 22, the three elements being a service management device 11, a service offer device 31, and a service use device or client 21. The different elements in the system of the present invention as recited in the claims operate such that the service management device 11 receives an acquisition request for a license from a service offer device 31, see also for example step S81 in Figure 22 as a non-limiting example. That service offer device 31 can then receive a license from the service management device 11, and thereby allow the service use service or client 21 use a service 82 offered by the service offer device 31.

Thereby, in the claimed invention, a *client* or end user ***does not make a request for a license to the licensing entity***. Instead, in the claimed invention the client requests to use a service from a service provider (service offer service 31) and that entity that offers the service (service offer service 31) makes a request for the license. Applicants note that is a fundamental difference between the claimed invention and each of the applied art.

In that respect, the above-noted operation is reflected in claim 1 reciting a client being a separate device from the "service offer service unit", and reciting "a license sending section

sending the license to said service offer service unit in response to the acquisition request for the license so that *the client is permitted to use the service from the service offer service unit.*” (emphasis added.) As clearly reflected in independent claim 1, a client is separate from the service offer service unit that offers a service to the client, and a license is sent to the service offer service unit (the license is not sent to the client), which thereby enables the client to use the service from the service offer service unit.

Such features are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

Christiano as the primary reference merely discloses a client 12 making a request for a license from a licenser server 16. In contrast to Christiano, *in the claims a client does not make a request for a license.* Instead, a client makes a request to use a service from a service offer unit, and the service offer unit makes a request for the license. Christiano simply does not disclose or suggest such features and in that respect is not even similar to the claimed features.

Moreover, no teachings in Coley cure the deficiencies in Christiano.

Coley is similar to Christiano in that Coley shows for example in Figure 1 a client 100 making a request for a license from a license server 110. In contrast to Coley, in the claims the client does not make a license request to a licensing entity, but instead in the claims a service offer unit makes a request for a license, and when that request is granted then the server offer unit can provide a service to a client. Coley also fundamentally differs from the claims as written in that respect.

In such ways, no combination of teachings of Christiano and Coley is even related to the subject matter noted above and positively recited in independent claim 1. Thereby, independent claim 1 clearly distinguishes over Christiano in view of Coley.

The other independent claims are believed to also distinguish over Christiano and Coley for similar reasons as noted above. The other independent claims are directed to either

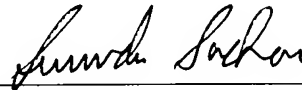
the service management unit or a method thereof or a service offer unit or method thereof,
but which operate as discussed above and as shown in Figure 22.

In view of the foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit the claims as
currently written are allowable over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the
present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested
that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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